

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin

Medical School Library
University of California
1933

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

JOHN H. GRAVES, M.D., San Francisco, President

EDWARD M. PALLETTE, M.D., Los Angeles, Vice President

GEO. H. KRESS, M.D., Los Angeles

JUNIUS B. HARRIS, M.D., Sacramento

WM. R. P. CLARK, M.D., San Francisco

GIFFORD L. SOBEY, M.D., Paso Robles

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Sacramento

SAN FRANCISCO

State Office Building, McAllister and
Larkin Streets Underhill 8700

SACRAMENTO

State Office Building, 10th and L Streets
Capital 2800

LOS ANGELES

State Office Building, 217 West First
Street Madison 1271

Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. XII, No. 34

September 23, 1933

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Health Officers Hold Twenty-fifth Conference

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities was held at Santa Cruz September 18-20, 1933. The meeting was well attended and the program was received with enthusiasm. At the opening session, September 18, Dr. W. B. Wells, Riverside County Health Officer and President of the section, presided. After invocation by the Rev. P. J. McGrath, Dr. John P. Harrington, City Health Officer of Santa Cruz, extended the official welcome of the city. Dr. George G. Reinle, President of the California Medical Association, was introduced by Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director of the Department of Public Relations of the California Medical Association and former Director of the California State Department of Public Health. Dr. Reinle's subject was "The Medical Profession and the Public Health." His paper was most important and he emphasized the need for team work between health officers and practitioners of medicine in the promotion of the best interests of the general public. He stressed the importance of keeping the practicing physician informed of methods in public health practice as they develop and indicated that the practicing physician is the health officer's most important ally in the administration of public health laws. The control of communicable diseases depends largely upon the cooperation that exists between private practitioner and the public health officer.

Dr. Reinle was followed by Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, President of the California Cancer Commission of the California Medical Association. Dr. Dukes outlined the activities of the Commission and stressed the importance of the prevention of cancer from a public health standpoint. He indicated, however, that a vast amount of information relative to the diagnosis of cancer must be disseminated before an effective state-wide program of control can be effected. The control of cancer is a complicated problem and at the proper time a large amount of educational work must be carried on among the general public in order that effective results may be obtained in curbing this disease, which is so largely amenable to preventive methods.

Dr. Giles S. Porter, Director of the State Department of Public Health and Secretary of the Health Officers' Section, outlined the public health objectives for the coming year. Dr. Porter stressed the importance of exercising measures in the control of the deficiency diseases which are becoming more conspicuous as a result of underfeeding and possible starvation during the period of economic distress. His point of view was that the depression, from a public health standpoint, is just beginning and that health officers have solemn obligations in formulating programs that may be effective in raising public health standards which have been lowered as a result of the economic depression.

Dr. Ellen S. Stadtmuller, Chief of the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the State Department of Public Health and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the California White House Conference, addressed the section upon the activities of the California White House Conference. Dr. Stadtmuller's address was in the nature of a progress report. She outlined the plans and programs of the conference and stressed the importance of the closing meetings which will be held after the message of the conference has been carried into the remote districts of the State.

At the afternoon session, Dr. Frank L. Kelly, City Health Officer of Berkeley and Vice President of the Health Officers' Section, presided. Dr. Charles W. Decker, City Health Officer of Los Angeles, read a paper entitled "A New Deal for Public Health." Dr. Decker emphasized the importance of proper legislation governing the administration of local health departments and advocated certain changes in the laws which may be designed to promote more efficient administration. The paper was discussed by Dr. Harold E. Morrison, San Mateo County Health Officer, and Dr. Kenneth H. Sutherland, Orange County Health Officer.

Mrs. Carrie L. Hoyt, City Councilwoman of Berkeley, read a paper entitled "The City Health Department from the Standpoint of a City Councilman." Mrs. Hoyt's paper indicated that she is familiar with standard public health procedures and that she realizes the importance of their application through the activities of municipal government. Her paper showed the result of a careful study of public health administration in the municipality. It was discussed by Dr. Herbert F. True, City Health Officer of Sacramento, and Dr. P. J. Cuneo, City Health Officer of Bakersfield.

Mr. C. G. Gillespie, Chief of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering of the State Department of Public Health, read a paper entitled "Making the Most of the B. Coli Test of Water." Mr. Gillespie made an illuminating discussion of the role of the B. coli in the determination of an index of pollution and he gave practical advice relative to the use of this test in the improvement of public water supplies. Mr. Gillespie's paper was discussed by Mr. Louis Olsen, City Health Officer of Palo Alto.

Dr. Nina Simmonds Estill, of San Francisco, read a paper entitled "The Calcium and Phosphorus Problem and the Average Diet." Dr. Estill stressed the importance of including in the diet foods which are rich in calcium and phosphorus. She cited important experiments that have been conducted showing the necessity of both calcium and phosphorus in the

maintenance of proper nutrition and in the development of bony structures of the body. Her paper was discussed ably by Dr. Guy S. Millberry, Dean of the University of California College of Dentistry, and by Dr. J. D. Dunshee, City Health Officer of Pasadena.

At the morning session on Tuesday, September 19, Dr. Wm. B. Wells, President of the section, presided. The subjects of the first two papers related to the health officer and the public health nurse. Both papers promoted lively discussions which served to emphasize the importance of the public health nurse in the activities of the local health department. Dr. W. A. Powell, Health Officer of Contra Costa County, gave the first paper—"What the Health Officer Expects of the Nurse." This was discussed by Dr. W. D. Lenker, City Health Officer of San Bernardino, and Dr. Allen F. Gillihan, San Luis Obispo County Health Officer. The next paper was by Rachel K. Miller, R.N., Supervisor of the Nursing Division of the Oakland City Health Department. She discussed the subject of "What the Nurse Expects of the Health Officer" and emphasized the importance of the health officer's attitude toward the activities of the nurse, stressing the need for continual instruction in public health procedures and the full sponsorship of the nurse's activities.

The rest of the morning session was devoted to a joint meeting with the California Association of Dairy and Milk Inspectors. Dr. C. U. Duckworth, Chief of the State Division of Animal Industry, read a paper entitled "New Regulations for Milk Inspection Service Proposed by the Department of Agriculture." His discussion of the subject led to the passage of a resolution which expressed full confidence in the activities of the State Department of Agriculture in its milk inspection service and expressed confidence in the enforcement of the regulations.

The next paper was by Dr. J. Traum of the Department of Veterinary Science, College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley. He discussed brucella infections and his paper was discussed by Dr. Karl F. Meyer, Director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research.

Dr. Herbert F. True, City Health Officer of Sacramento and Vice President of the section, presided at the afternoon session. Dr. W. H. Kellogg, Director of the Bureau of Laboratories of the State Department of Public Health, made an interesting interpretation of the work of the bacteriological laboratory conducted by the State. His demonstration stressed the importance of the laboratory in the prevention of communicable diseases and was illumi-

nating in determining the purposes of the institutions and health departments which submit specimens for examination. This paper was discussed ably by Dr. R. V. Stone of the laboratory of the Los Angeles County Health Department, and by Dr. Frank L. Kelly, City Health Officer of Berkeley.

Mrs. Aldelheid Arfsten, Welfare Division Supervisor of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, read an excellent paper upon health education which indicated a careful study of the various methods that are employed in the development of public health education. Her paper was discussed interestingly by Mrs. Inez G. Richardson, Administrative Assistant of the Hoover War Library at Stanford University.

Miss Ida May Stevens, Assistant Epidemiologist of the State Department of Public Health, outlined certain epidemiological characteristics of psittacosis. Her paper was discussed by Dr. R. V. Stone of Los Angeles, and Dr. K. F. Meyer, Medical Director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research.

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Stanford University, was the guest speaker at the annual banquet of the section, which was held Tuesday night. Dr. Wm. B. Wells, President of the section, was toastmaster. Dr. Wilbur's subject was "The Training of Public Health Personnel."

(Continued in next issue)

BIRTHS SHOW DECREASE

During the first six months of 1933, 37,098 births were registered, as compared with 38,091 which were registered during the corresponding period of 1932. There were 19,073 male births and 18,025 female births registered. This is a ratio of 106 males to every 100 females born. Births were distributed among races as follows:

	Number	Per cent
White -----	29,463	79.4
Negro -----	553	1.5
Indian -----	203	0.5
Chinese -----	307	0.9
Japanese -----	897	2.4
Mexican -----	5,507	14.8
Other -----	168	0.5

RABIES IN ANIMALS INCREASES

Rabies in animals shows a marked increase. The following counties reported cases during August: Contra Costa, Kings, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, Sonoma and Stanislaus. Out of a total of 66 cases reported during the month, 49 occurred in Los Angeles County.

DR. TRUE HEADS HEALTH OFFICERS' SECTION

Dr. Herbert F. True, City Health Officer of Sacramento, was elected President of the Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities for the coming year. His election occurred at the annual meeting held in Santa Cruz September 18-20, 1933.

Dr. J. D. Dunshee, City Health Officer of Pasadena, was elected First Vice President, and Dr. Arthur H. Hieronymus, City Health Officer of Oakland, was elected Second Vice President.

Dr. Giles S. Porter, Director of the State Department of Public Health, was elected Secretary and Treasurer.

At the business session of the section held on the final day of the conference, resolutions of sympathy were passed, copies of which it was directed should be sent to the members of the families of the following health officers who had died during the past year: Dr. B. Caldwell, Health Officer of Butte County; Dr. H. V. Armisted, City Health Officer of Newman; Dr. John W. Crawford, City Health Officer of Santa Paula; and Dr. J. Hal Cope, City Health Officer of Pleasanton and former health officer of Alameda County.

SALVAGED CANNED GOODS QUARANTINED

Attention was paid during August to a dealer who specializes in salvaged canned goods. A large quantity of canned foods was discovered, all of which was "swells" and consequently dangerous for food purposes. This resulted in a quarantine of 573 cases. One shipment of canned olives and relishes which were in a fire was quarantined and the material is being sorted under the supervision of the bureau, to be released only when there is no question as to its sterility. An interstate shipment of peas, consisting of more than 1100 cases, was quarantined because of insect infestation. This material had been sold to a county welfare department but it will ultimately be condemned and destroyed as it is unfit for human consumption.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS ARE GOOD

Chickenpox, measles and mumps are prevalent throughout the State. Smallpox, which has been low for some time, has given evidence of spreading during the past few weeks. Typhoid fever remains at the lowest level on record.

A sick individual, community, town or city behaves, in general, the same way.

TWO PSITTACOSIS CASES REPORTED

A suspected case of psittacosis in the wife of an aviary and bird store owner in Oakland was reported. The patient was taken ill with symptoms of influenza late in June. After ten days, typhoid fever was suspected but laboratory investigations proved negative for typhoid. About August 1 psittacosis was suspected and laboratory examination on the thirty-seventh day of illness proved positive for psittacosis. The patient had been in contact with parrakeets in the aviary, as well as with birds which were brought to the store for boarding, bathing and treatment. All parrakeets in the aviary were taken to the laboratory for examination.

The Health Officer of Berkeley also reported a suspected case of psittacosis in a woman who had purchased parrakeets June 10 from an aviary in Oakland. One of the birds died about a week before the woman was taken ill. On the 13th day of her illness the laboratory examination proved positive for psittacosis. The remaining parrakeet, as well as all such birds in the Oakland aviary—consisting of 124 parrakeets—were taken to the laboratory where it was found that they were heavily infected with psittacosis. Further investigation developed that these parrakeets came from the same aviary where the Oakland woman had contracted psittacosis.

Physicians should steep themselves in the humanities. The sort of culture they need is best obtained by familiarity with poets, philosophers, biographers, musicians, and art. I am convinced that the medical student who knows the great classics of the past is better equipped to practice medicine than he who has medical textbooks at his finger tips. The welfare of the soul is enhanced by culture.—Dr. Joseph Collins.

MORBIDITY***Diphtheria**

24 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Los Angeles County 1, Alhambra 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 10, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 1, Monterey County 2, Orange County 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 1, Sutter County 1.

Chickenpox

81 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Berkeley 14, San Francisco 28.

* From reports received on September 18th and 19th for week ending September 16th.

Measles

74 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 11, San Diego 38.

Scarlet Fever

84 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 20.

Whooping Cough

204 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 23, Los Angeles County 11, Los Angeles 33, Madera County 16, Orange County 12, Sacramento 15, San Francisco 14.

Smallpox

9 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 7, Fullerton 1.

Typhoid Fever

7 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 2, Riverside 2, Sonoma County 2, Stanislaus County 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic meningitis from Oakland has been reported.

Poliomyelitis

4 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Los Angeles 2, Newport Beach 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic encephalitis from Oakland has been reported.

Trichinosis

2 cases of trichinosis from Glendora have been reported.

Botulism

2 cases of botulism have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, Sonoma 1.

Undulant Fever

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, San Bernardino 1.

U C MEDICAL SCHOOL
LIBRARY
PARNASSUS & THIRD AVE
SAN FRANCISCO CALIF